

15 and R³ = H or a substituted or unsubstituted, straight or branched chain acyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

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Please replace claim 3 with the following:

3. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said otoprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of D-methionine, L-methionine, a mixture of D-methionine and L-methionine, methioninol, hydroxy methionine, ethionine, S-adenosyl-L-methionine, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a combination thereof.